



## **Statement on Gaza**

### ***International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Austrian branch***

We, the Fellowship of Reconciliation Austria, condemn the massacre of civilians in Gaza by the Israeli military. We call on the government of Israel to immediately stop the military operation that violates international humanitarian law.

We call on Hamas to immediately stop military attacks on Israeli citizens and continue the struggle for the rights of the Palestinian population with civil and political means.

We mourn the victims of the violent armed escalation on both sides.

We are appalled that the governments of the United States of America and the European Union emphasize Israel's right to self defence while having failed to enforce the end of the siege of Gaza that has been causing a humanitarian disaster for years. We consider the siege of Gaza as an act of war.

The state of Israel has ignored dozens of resolutions of the United Nations, but nevertheless the governments of the US and the European Union have been continuing military cooperation with the state of Israel thus fuelling the armed conflict. We stand with the 64 public figures (among them seven Nobel Peace Prize Laureates) calling "...on the UN and governments across the world to take immediate steps to implement a comprehensive and legally binding military embargo on Israel, similar to that imposed on South Africa during apartheid..."

We urge the governments of the United States of America and the European Union to fully support the eligible demands of the Palestinians for a JUST peace, freedom, human dignity and prosperity. We are convinced that a just peace will be beneficial for all people of the region and their right to peace and security.

*The Fellowship of Reconciliation, Austrian branch is a spiritual based movement working non violently for peace and justice. Among other tasks we support the Palestinian and Israeli nonviolent movement in their efforts for peace.*